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            IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
           FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
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       UNITED STATES OF
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       AMERICA,
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                Plaintiff,
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                                 08-423
                VS.
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       JUSTIN SMITH,
                Defendant.
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                             U.S.P.O. and Courthouse
                             Courtroom 8A
12
                             700 Grant Street
                             Pittsburgh, PA 15219
13
                             Wednesday, July 21, 2010
                             1:00 p.m.
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15
        BEFORE: THE HONORABLE MAURICE B. COHILL, JR.
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                      CHANGE OF PLEA
18
                    REDACTED TRANSCRIPT
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                TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
20
21
                               Reported by:
22
                               Lee Ann Reid
                               Court Reporter
23
24
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       WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION FROM THE CERTIFYING
25
       AGENCY
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2 1 2 **COUNSEL PRESENT:** 3 For the United States Government: 4 Faithe Moore Taylor, Esq. U.S. Attorneys Office 5 Eastern District of Pennsylvania 615 Chestnut Street, Suite 1250 6 Philadelphia, PA 19106 And 7 Jason P. Bologna, Esq. U.S. Attorneys Office Eastern District of Pennsylvania 8 615 Chestnut Street, Suite 1250 Philadelphia, PA 19106 9 10 For the Defendant: 11 Thomas Livingston, Esq. 12 Federal Public Defenders Office Western District of Pennsylvania 1500 Liberty Center 13 1001 Liberty Avenue 14 Pittsburgh, PA 15222 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

3 1 2 PROCEEDINGS 3 4 (Call to Order of the Court.) JUDGE MAURICE B. COHILL, JR.: 5 6 Mr. Livingston, as I understand it, your client 7 has indicated a desire to enter a plea of 8 guilty today; is that correct? 9 MR. THOMAS LIVINGSTON: Yes, 10 Your Honor. 11 THE COURT: Will you stand and 12 be sworn, please. 13 (The Defendant is sworn.) 14 THE COURT: Would you state 15 your name for the record, please. 16 MR. JUSTIN SMITH: Justin 17 Smith. 18 THE COURT: Mr. Smith, do you 19 understand that you have been sworn and your 20 answers to my questions will be given under 21 oath so that you would be subject to the 22 penalties of perjury or making false statements 23 if you don't answer truthfully? 24 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 25 THE COURT: What's your date

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2	of birth?
3	THE WITNESS: November 9,
4	1988.
5	THE COURT: And what is your
6	address?
7	THE WITNESS: 318 South Enola
8	Drive, Enola, Pennsylvania.
9	THE COURT: How far did you go
10	in school?
11	THE WITNESS: 10th grade.
12	THE COURT: Mr. Livingston,
13	have you been able to communicate with your
14	client in a sense that you believe he
15	understands you and you understand him?
16	MR. LIVINGSTON: Yes, I have,
17	Judge.
18	THE COURT: Mr. Smith, are you
19	currently or have you recently been under the
20	care of a physician or a psychiatrist?
21	THE WITNESS: No, sir.
22	THE COURT: Have you been
23	hospitalized or treated for a narcotic
24	addiction?
25	THE WITNESS: No, sir.

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2	THE COURT: Have you been
3	hospitalized or treated for alcohol abuse?
4	THE WITNESS: No, sir.
5	THE COURT: Have you been
6	hospitalized or treated for any sort of mental
7	illness?
8	THE WITNESS: No, sir.
9	THE COURT: Are you under the
10	influence of any narcotic, drug, medicine,
11	pill, or alcoholic beverage today?
12	THE WITNESS: No, sir.
13	THE COURT: Have you taken any
14	drugs, medicine, or pills, or have any
15	alcoholic beverages in the past 24 hours?
16	THE WITNESS: No, sir.
17	THE COURT: How do you feel
18	physically and mentally right now?
19	THE WITNESS: Excuse me?
20	THE COURT: How do you feel
21	physically and mentally right now?
22	THE WITNESS: Fine.
23	THE COURT: Are you clear in
24	understanding exactly what's happening here
25	now?

6 1 2 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 3 THE COURT: Do either of you 4 attorneys have any data as to Mr. Smith's 5 competency at this time? MR. LIVINGSTON: No, I don't, 6 7 Your Honor. 8 MS. FAITHE MOORE TAYLOR: No, 9 Your Honor. 10 THE COURT: Based on the 11 answers to the foregoing questions, I find that 12 Mr. Smith is competent to plead. 13 Have you had an ample opportunity to 14 discuss your case with your attorney? 15 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 16 THE COURT: Have you told him all the facts in connection with the charges? 17 18 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 19 THE COURT: Are you satisfied 20 with the job that he has done for you? 21 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 22 THE COURT: I want to go over 23 with you now just what your rights would be, 24 what your constitutional rights would be if 25 this case were to go to trial, Mr. Smith.

7 1 2 First of all, do you understand that 3 under the constitutional laws of the United 4 States you are entitled to a speedy and a 5 public trial by a jury on the charges contained 6 in the Indictment? 7 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 8 THE COURT: Do you understand 9 that you had the right to an attorney at every 10 stage of the proceedings in your case and that 11 if at any time you can't afford an attorney, 12 one will be provided for you without charge? 13 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 14 THE COURT: Do you understand 15 that at your trial you would be presumed to be 16 innocent and the Government would be required 17 to prove you guilty by competent evidence and 18 beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction 19 of the Judge and a unanimous jury? 20 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 21 THE COURT: Do you understand 22 that being presumed to be innocent means that 23 you would not have to prove that you were 24 innocent?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

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THE COURT: Do you understand that at the trial the witnesses for the Government would have to come to Court and testify in your presence and your attorney or you could cross-examine the witnesses for the Government, object to evidence offered by the Government, and offer evidence on your behalf?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Do you understand that at the trial you would be entitled to compulsory process to call witnesses; that is you could subpoena witnesses and compel them to come to Court to testify for you?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Do you understand that at the trial you will have the right to testify if you chose to do so, but you would also have the right not to testify and no inference or suggestion of guilt would be drawn from the fact that you did not testify?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: If you do enter a plea of guilty today, you understand that you will be waiving your right to a trial and the

9 1 2 other rights that I have just described and 3 there will not be a trial of any kind and I 4 will enter a judgment of guilty and sentence 5 you on the basis of your guilty plea after 6 considering the presentence report? 7 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 8 THE COURT: If you do enter a 9 plea of guilty today, do you understand that 10 you will also have to waive your right not to 11 incriminate yourself since I will ask you 12 questions about what you did in order to 13 satisfy myself that you are guilty and you will 14 have to acknowledge your guilt on the record? THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 15 THE COURT: Do you understand 16 17 that any statements regarding the events that 18 you may have made to the US Attorney during the 19 course of any plea negotiations could not be 20 used against you in a trial in this case? 21 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 22 THE COURT: Having discussed 23 these rights with you, is it still your wish to 24 enter a plea of guilty today? 25 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

10 1 2 THE COURT: Have you received 3 a copy of the Indictment that was filed in this 4 case? 5 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 6 THE COURT: Have you discussed 7 with Mr. Livingston the charges in the 8 Indictment to which you intend to plead guilty? 9 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 10 THE COURT: Just for the 11 record, I think it's going to be a good idea 12 for me to read these to you. There are four 13 counts here. 14 Count 1 of the Indictment charges --I'm quoting -- "On or about May 16, 2007 in 15 16 Summerdale in the Middle District of 17 Pennsylvania Defendant Justin Smith knowingly 18 and intentionally distributed a mixture and 19 substance containing a detectable amount of 4-methyl-2,5" -- that's dimethoxyamphetamine --20 21 "also known as Nexus or DOM, D-O-M, which is a 22 Schedule I controlled substance which resulted 23 in serious bodily injury to a person in violation of 21 United States Code Section 841, 24 25 Subsections (a)(1), (b)(1)(C). And that

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section of the Code makes it a crime to knowingly and intentionally distribute a controlled substance such as DOM or Nexus which results in serious bodily injury.

Do you understand that?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: And the shorthand name for that count is just distribution causing serious bodily injury.

Then the second one is, the shorthand one for that is just called distribution.

And Count 2 of the Indictment charges that, "On or about May 16, 2007 in Summerdale in the Middle District of Pennsylvania Defendant Justin Smith knowingly and intentionally distributed a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of 4-methyl-2,5 dimethoxyamphetamine also known as Nexus or DOM, a Schedule I controlled substance in violation of Title 21 United States Code Section 841, Subsections (a)(1), (b)(1)(C)." And that particular section makes it a crime to knowingly and intentionally distribute a

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controlled substance such as DOM or Nexus.

And in the law where we talk about something as not knowingly and intentionally, by knowingly we mean that you knew what you were doing when you made some mistake that you made. And intentionally is that you intended to, whatever act you took, that you did that on purpose.

Do you understand all of that?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Then Count 3 which is distribution to a person under 21. And Count 3 states that, "On or about May 16, 2007 in Summerdale in the Middle District of Pennsylvania the Defendant Justin Smith, being over the age of 18, knowingly and intentionally distributed a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of 4-methyl-2,5 dimethoxyamphetamine also known as Nexus or DOM, a Schedule I controlled substance to a person under 21 years of age that is in violation of Title 21 United States Code Section 841, Subsections (a)(1), (b)(1)(c)." And Section 859(a) of Title 21 provides for

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enhanced penalties for knowingly and intentionally distributing a controlled substance such as DOM or Nexus to a person under 21 years of age.

And then Count 4, which is simply possession, that states that, "On or about May 16, 2007 in Summerdale in the Middle District of Pennsylvania, the Defendant Justin Smith knowingly and intentionally possessed a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of 2,5 dimethoxyamphetamine known as Nexus or DOET" -- D-O-E-T -- "a Schedule I controlled substance" -- note this is a different chemical composition than the drug known as DOM, D-O-M -- "in violation of Title 21 United States Code Section 844a." And that particular section makes it a crime to knowingly and intentionally possess a controlled substance such as DOET or Nexus.

Do you understand that?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Do you have any

question about what you've been charged with

25 here?

14 1 2 THE WITNESS: No, sir. 3 THE COURT: Now, I want to go 4 over with you now just what the Government 5 would have to prove if this case were to go to 6 In any criminal case the Government has 7 to prove certain elements upon each count. 8 These are the elements of the offense for each of the counts which we're talking about here. 9 10 For distribution causing seriously 11 bodily injury, they have to prove that you 12 knowingly or intentionally possessed a 13 controlled substance, namely 4-methyl-2,5 14 dimethoxyamphetamine also known as Nexus, also 15 known as DOM, that you distributed that 16 substance, that you knew that the substance was 17 a controlled substance; in other words, 18 controlled by the law. And, last, that serious 19 bodily injury resulted from the use of the 20 controlled substance. That's what they would 21 have to prove for Count 1. 22 Do you understand that? 23 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 24 THE COURT: Now, for Count 2, distribution, to establish that they would have 25

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to prove that you knowingly or intentionally possessed a controlled substance, namely 4-methyl-2,5 dimethoxyamphetamine also known as Nexus, also known as DOM, D-O-M, that you distributed that controlled substance, and that you knew the substance was a controlled substance.

Then for Count 3, that's distribution of a person under age 21, to establish that violation, they would have to prove -- then, of course, in each of these cases, they would have to prove it to the satisfaction of the Judge and a unanimous jury. They would have to prove that you knowingly or intentionally possessed a controlled substance, namely 4-meythl-2,5 dimethoxyamphetamine also known as Nexus, also known as DOM, that you distributed that substance, and that you knew that the substance was a controlled substance.

The fourth thing they would have to prove is that you were at least 18 years of age at the time of the distribution and that the victim was under the age of 21 years of age.

Do you understand all of that?

16 1 2 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 3 THE COURT: Then the last 4 count is possession. And there they would have 5 to prove that you knowingly or intentionally 6 possessed a controlled substance, namely 7 4-methyl-2,5 dimethoxyamphetamine also known as 8 Nexus also known as DOM, that you knew that the 9 substance was a controlled substance, and that 10 you did not possess the controlled substance 11 pursuant to a valid prescription; in other 12 words, you didn't have a prescription for it. 13 Do you understand that? 14 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 15 THE COURT: Do you have any 16 questions about what you're charged with here? 17 THE WITNESS: No. sir. 18 THE COURT: I think I already 19 did define knowingly and intentionally, but let 20 me do that again. The term knowingly means 21 that you were conscious and aware that you were 22 engaged in the act charged and knew the 23 surrounding facts and circumstances that make 24 out the offense. And intentionally, when we 25 say intentionally that means to act

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deliberately and not by accident or mistake and/or inadvertently.

Do you understand that?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Now, I want to go over with you the possible penalties here. And there are two kinds of penalties that we have to consider. First of all is what is the United States Code, what does the Statute say about the penalties for these violations. And then, secondly, the Court also has to consider the so-called Sentencing Guidelines.

First of all, let me tell you what the Statute says about them. On the first count, distribution of a controlled substance that results in serious bodily injury, that calls for a statutory term of imprisonment of not less than 20 years to a maximum of life. That is, the minimum sentence you face is 20 years and the maximum that you face is life imprisonment. It also calls for a mandatory minimum of three years of supervised release up to a lifetime of supervised release and a fine of one million dollars.

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Now, the second count for violation of distribution of a controlled substance, you're subject to a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years, a mandatory minimum of 3 years of supervised release up to a lifetime of supervised release, and a fine of one million dollars.

At Count 3 for violation of distribution of a controlled substance to a person under 21 years of age you're subject to a statutory mandatory minimum of imprisonment of 1 year to a maximum sentence of 40 years imprisonment, a mandatory minimum of 6 years supervised release up to a lifetime of supervised release, and a fine of 2 million dollars.

Then on Count 4, possession of a controlled substance, you're subject to a maximum term of imprisonment of 1 year and a fine of \$1,000.

And in addition to those statutory penalties that I have just mentioned, we're also required to impose a so-called special assessment of \$100 on each count. So in this

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case it would be \$400 for four counts.

So, in other words, you're looking at a total maximum sentence here of life imprisonment with a mandatory minimum of 20 years, a lifetime of supervised release with a mandatory minimum of 6 years supervised release, and fines totaling 4 million \$1,000 and a \$400 special assessment.

Do you understand all of that?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Now, have you and Mr. Livingston talked about how Sentencing Guidelines might apply in this case?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: You understand that the Supreme Court a few years ago, the Supreme Court of the United States a few years ago in a ruling said that the District Courts are not required to follow the Sentencing Guidelines, but we have to figure out what the Guideline calls for in order to arrive at --

well, we look to them more or less in an advisory way. And we have to figure out what the Guideline is in order to arrive at

20 1 2 what hopefully will be a fair and just 3 sentence. 4 You understand that I wouldn't be 5 able to determine the Guideline Sentence for 6 your case until after a presentence report has 7 been completed and you and the Government had 8 an opportunity to challenge any facts recorded 9 by the probation officer that you might 10 disagree with? Do you understand that? 11 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 12 THE COURT: Do you understand 13 that the sentence might be different from what 14 either your attorney or the United States' 15 attorney predicted? 16 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 17 THE COURT: Do you understand 18 that after it's been determined what Guideline 19 applies in the case, the Judge has the 20 authority in some circumstances to impose a 21 sentence that's more severe or less severe than 22 the sentence called for by the Guidelines? 23 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 24 THE COURT: Do you understand 25 that -- and as I understand it, there is a Plea

21 1 2 Agreement here which we'll get to in a few 3 minutes. But under some circumstances you or 4 the Government may have the right to appeal any 5 sentence that the Court might impose what would 6 be within the conditions that are set out in 7 your plea? Do you understand that? 8 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 9 THE COURT: Mr. Smith, has 10 anyone threatened you or anyone else or forced 11 you in any way to indicate you want to plead 12 guilty in this case? 13 No. sir. THE WITNESS: 14 THE COURT: Have you made 15 or -- Mr. Livingston, has he made any 16 confession or omissions to the police or other 17 representatives of the Government concerning 18 this matter? 19 MR. LIVINGSTON: Yes, Your 20 Honor. One aspect of the discovery is a 21 summary of that. And in the context of 22 reviewing that statement, the one document we 23 received verified that it was made after 24 Miranda Warnings were --

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I'm sorry?

THE COURT:

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MR. LIVINGSTON: There are two different pieces of discovery that refers to that statement, and you're going to hear one aspect of it in the factual basis here today. Included in the advice of rights preceding statement was Miranda Warnings. We discussed the prospect of filing pretrial motions. One of those potential motions would have been a motion to suppress, but consistent with my advice, Mr. Smith is electing to not file a motion to suppress that statement.

THE COURT: If you have any feeling that that confession or omission or statement was not freely and voluntarily made, you would, as Mr. Livingston says, have the opportunity to have a suppression hearing for me to determine whether or not that statement was voluntarily made.

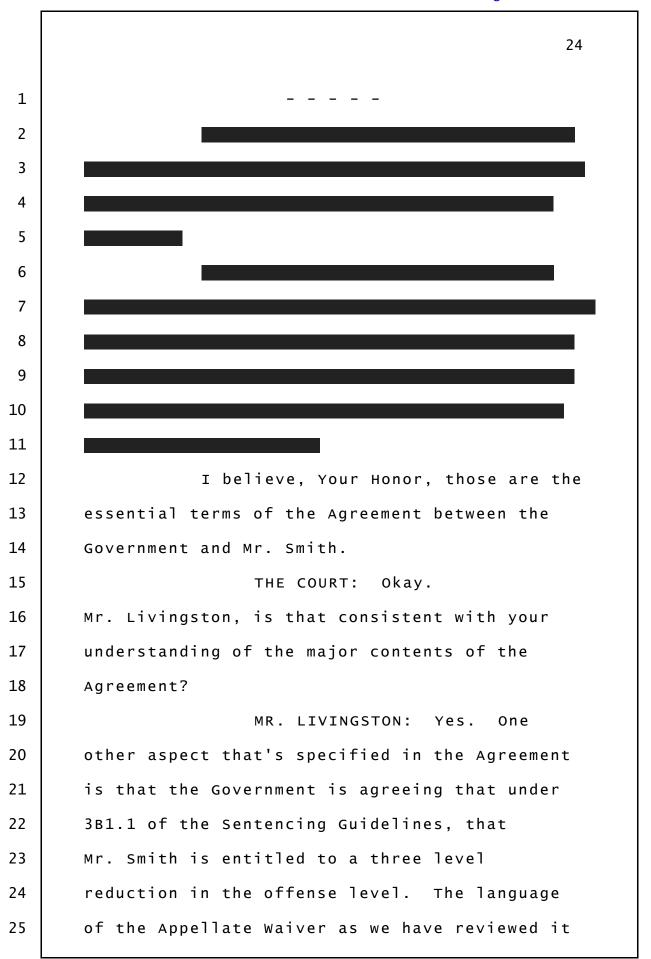
Are you agreeing with Mr. Livingston that you don't think you need to have that hearing?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: And I have seen

the Plea Agreement. I understand it and have

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2	reviewed it, but I'm going to ask the
3	Government, if you would, just give us a
4	summary of what's in that Plea Agreement. Then
5	I'm going to ask Mr. Smith and Mr. Livingston
6	if they agree with Ms. Moore's statement of
7	what's in the Agreement.
8	MS. MOORE TAYLOR: Yes, Your
9	Honor. The summary of the Agreement between
10	the Government and Mr. Smith and his Counsel is
11	as follows:
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Filed 08/11/10 Page 25 of 49 25 1 2 is in many respects similar to the waiver 3 language that we are familiar with in this 4 district. And I assume the Court is going to 5 want to note the colloquy about that topic. 6 THE COURT: Mr. Smith, is your 7 hearing what Ms. Moore had to say and what 8 Mr. Livingston had to say consistent with your 9 understanding of what's in the Plea Agreement? 10 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 11 THE COURT: Has anyone made 12 any representation or promise other than what's 13 in that Plea Agreement that convinced you to 14 plead quilty today? 15 THE WITNESS: No, sir. 16 MR. LIVINGSTON: Judge, 17 there's one topic that I discussed with both 18 the Government and with Mr. Smith and it 19 relates to bail status following today's 20 hearing. And the Government is recommending 21 that Mr. Smith remain released on bail pursuant 22 to the terms of the order. 23 THE COURT: That was my

MS. MOORE TAYLOR: Yes, Your

understanding.

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26 1 2 Honor. 3 THE COURT: Mr. Smith, it is 4 very important that I've been told all of the 5 relevant bargaining that's taken place because 6 I want to guard against any possible 7 misunderstanding of the terms of the Plea 8 Bargain. Is there any representation made by 9 the United States Attorney that is not 10 absolutely clear in your mind? 11 THE WITNESS: No, sir. 12 THE COURT: You understand 13 that any recommendation of sentence that might 14 have been agreed to by your lawyer and the 15 prosecution or any agreement by the Government 16 not to oppose your attorney's requested 17 sentence is not binding on me and you might on the basis of your Guilty Plea receive up to the 18 19 maximum sentence permitted by law? 20 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 21 THE COURT: You understand 22 that if I choose not to impose a sentence that 23 might be recommended by the Government or by

your lawyer and impose a more severe sentence,

you will not, therefore, be entitled to

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27 1 2 withdraw a guilty plea? 3 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 4 THE COURT: Has anyone made 5 any prediction or promise to you as to what the sentence will be? 6 7 THE WITNESS: No. sir. 8 THE COURT: Have any 9 out-of-Court promises, representations, or 10 agreements been made which require you to 11 respond untruthfully to any of my questions? 12 For instance, has anyone told you to tell me 13 that no promise of leniency was made when, in 14 fact, a promise was so made? No, sir. 15 THE WITNESS: 16 THE COURT: You understand 17 that you may not at a later date after today 18 claim that there were any promises, 19 representations, agreements, understandings, or 20 threats made by any person that motivated or 21 caused you to enter this Plea other than those 22 that you had the opportunity to tell me about 23 here and now in open Court. Do you understand 24 that? 25 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

28 1 2 THE COURT: Do you understand 3 that no one can make promises for me as to how 4 I will dispose of a case? 5 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 6 THE COURT: Has anyone 7 promised or predicted leniency with respect to 8 any sentence that I might impose? 9 THE WITNESS: No. sir. 10 THE COURT: It's very 11 important, because if anyone has predicted or 12 promised leniency, I'm putting you on notice 13 right now that any representation that they 14 have made is not binding on me and I will 15 sentence you according to my own conscious and 16 in following the law. You completely 17 understand this? 18 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 19 THE COURT: What made you 20 decide to plead guilty, Mr. Smith? 21 MR. LIVINGSTON: Judge, I'm 22 going to comment on -- as we've been reviewing 23 this case and looking at the factual elements 24 of the case, there were several postponements, 25 some of them based on ongoing discussions

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between the Government and me about one of the essential elements of Count 1, which is the term serious bodily injury.

As time progressed, we filed a motion to compel discovery regarding expert testimony, and that generated the production of grand jury testimony of the treating doctor which you'll hear about in a minute as well as an Affidavit he prepared. You're going to hear the factual basis about the events and consistent with his admission out of Court, it's been my ongoing discussion with Justin Smith that as far as the evidence goes, including his admission, that there is a sufficient factual basis. We were not sure about Count 1 until we saw the opinion of the Doctor in the Affidavit.

But as far as Count 1, which is the one that triggers the 20 year minimum in this case, the other counts sort of ride the tail of that based on the factual basis you're about to hear. So my advice to Justin Smith is that there is, in fact, a factual basis and included in the Plea Agreement with the 5K 3553(b)

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language and 3B1.1 language, the curious thing is Justin Smith could, quote, go to trial and win on Count 1 but still be subject to the same Guideline range and even higher without the acceptance of responsibility because the Guideline definition of serious bodily injury is easier for the Government to prove and doesn't require the Affidavit of the treating emergency room doctor that you'll hear about.

So my advice which Mr. Smith has chosen to follow is that there's a sufficient factual basis and the consideration of the Plea Agreement is substantial and the risk of going to trial was far too great to risk the verdict of guilty and a 20 year mandatory minimum.

THE COURT: You're telling me that you're admitting today that you are guilty as charged in the four counts?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: I'm going to ask
now for Ms. Moore or Mr. Bologna to tell me
what happened here and what the Government
would expect to be able to prove. Then, again,
I'm going to ask you and Mr. Livingston if you

31 1 2 agree with her statement of the events of the 3 case. 4 MS. MOORE TAYLOR: May I 5 proceed, Your Honor? 6 THE COURT: Yes. 7 MS. MOORE TAYLOR: If this 8 matter were to go to trial, the Government would present the following evidence. We have 9 10 filed a fairly significant factual basis. 11 going to try to summarize that for the Court. 12 THE COURT: I have read that. 13 MS. MOORE TAYLOR: On or about 14 May 16 of 2007 John Jones drove Erik Brandler 15 to Justin Smith's home at 400 Boyer Street in 16 Summerdale, Pennsylvania. The purpose of Erik 17 wanting to go there was to purchase 2C-B from 18 Justin Smith. When Jones reached Smith's home, 19 he dropped Brandler off and he left the area. 20 Interviews with different witnesses 21 including Mr. Brandler and others who were at 22 the Smith home that night revealed the 23 following: Brandler went into the home and met

with Justin Smith and his then girlfriend Dawn

Baker. Baker was interviewed and recalled that

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she and Smith both told Brandler not to do too much of the 2C-B because they didn't know how potent this batch was.

While Baker never saw Brandler ingest the drugs, she returned to the room and later found Brandler in Smith's front yard groggy and hallucinating. Justin Smith told Baker that Brandler, in fact, had taken too much 2C-B and that Brandler had snorted it.

During that time for the next five or six hours different individuals came to the Smith home and partied there. These individuals interacted with Brandler, tried to talk to Brandler, observed his deteriorating condition, attempted to get him to focus. He was unable to focus. Attempted to speak to him. He was unable to respond coherently. They tried, including Mr. Smith, to get him to drink water, but he was unable to understand what they were saying. Consequently, unable to follow their direction.

After several hours passed and after observing Brandler's condition, Justin Smith and two other individuals, Troy Eppley and

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Joseph Mishalko, made a decision to take Erik Brandler home to his parents so that they could deal with the situation. They got Brandler out of the car and left him on his parents' front They then took Brandler's cell phone and called Brandler's home. The phone was answered by Bruce Brandler, Erik Brandler's father. And he was told that his son was on the lawn and he needed help. Mr. Brandler recalled that he received that call at approximately 11:30 that night. And he asked the other person on the other end of the phone to identify themselves. They would not. Based on what this caller said, Mr. Brandler proceeded to go outside and there he encountered his son Erik. described Erik's condition as incoherent and had him immediately rushed to Holy Spirit Hospital. He was then transferred to Harrisburg Hospital where he received treatment for an apparent drug overdose.

The Brandlers did not know when they encountered their son what drug they had taken. So Erik's mother retrieves his cellphone and began to call the individuals that were listed

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there. She called John Jones who shared with her the information we just related to the Court. Jones also admitted to taking Erik to Justin Smith's home to purchase 2C-B.

Erik Brandler was later after he was treated spoken to at the hospital. He admitted to his mother that he had, in fact, taken 2C-B and that he had gotten it from Justin Smith.

This information was relayed to the police and on May 19, 2007 a search warrant was executed at Justin Smith's home. At the time the search warrant was executed, both Justin Smith and Dawn Baker were inside of the home. Justin Smith was given his Miranda Rights after which he directed the officers to the location of drugs in his home and drug paraphernalia. And that direction resulted in the recovery of the following items: There was white powder in a clear plastic bag that was within a clear Ziploc bag located under the keyboard on Mr. Smith's desk. A blue pipe with residue was found inside of a black bag in his desk. clear sandwich bag containing a green leafy substance was also found inside the black bag.

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A multicolor pipe with residue was found inside Ms. Baker's jacket and then again the black bag that was found near the bed.

The white powder that I referred to was recovered and taken to the lab and determined to be DOET which resulted in the charge of Mr. Smith for possessing that substance. Like DOM, the substance found in Erik Brandler, DOET is a synthetic amphetamine which is generally in the 2C-B family of synthetic amphetamines.

while our investigation revealed that 2C-B or Nexus is the generic name of the drug that's ingested, but the actual chemical makeup could be DOM, DOET, or 2C-B.

An initial report done on Erik at the Harrisburg Hospital indicated solely the presence of a synthetic amphetamine. A later toxicology screen confirmed and identified the substance as DOM or 4-methyl-2,5 dimethoxyamphetamine.

Dr. J. Ward Donovan was Erik's treating physician at Harrisburg Hospital. He studied Erik's symptoms and he found and

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determined that Erik suffered a overdose and that it was a serious bodily injury that if left untreated could have resulted in permanent injury or death. Erik's symptoms as observed by Dr. Donovan included hallucinations, incoherency, sweating, and an increased heart rate.

Dr. Donovan subsequently opined to a reasonable degree of medical certainty that Erik's overdose was a bodily injury that involved a substantial risk of death and a protracted loss or impairment of a mental faculty.

The Government then consulted Dr.

Lawson Bernstein who is a forensic toxicologist with a specialty in substance abuse. Dr.

Bernstein reviewed all the records and agreed with Dr. Donovan's initial diagnosis of a drug overdose and, in fact, also agreed that that overdose constituted seriously bodily injury.

And, in particular, if that overdose was left untreated, it could have led to permanent organ damage or loss of life.

I earlier indicated that Justin

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Smith had been given his Miranda Warnings and gave a statement. The summary of that statement given to Officer Christopher Kauffman is as follows: Justin Smith indicated that he gave the 2C-B to Brandler the night Brandler overdosed. He purchased the drug from an unknown male at a party and then provided it to several people. Smith went on to tell the police that the usual method of ingesting 2C-B was by placing it into a small amount of tissue and swallowing it. He said he was present when Brandler ingested the 2C-B by snorting it. indicated that Brandler became incoherent and began to hallucinate. Brandler's condition got worse but no one took him to the hospital because they didn't want to, quote unquote, "deal with all that." After a while Brandler appeared to be better but then he got much It was at this time Smith indicated worse. that he and the others took Brandler home and left him in his front yard.

The government would lastly state that at the time Justin Smith distributed these drugs to Erik Brandler, Justin Smith was 18

38 1 vears old and Erik Brandler was under the age 2 of 21 and 16 years old. 3 4 That would be a summary, Your Honor, 5 of the Government's evidence. 6 THE COURT: Is that a fair 7 statement of what happened as far as your 8 participation goes? 9 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 10 THE COURT: Reviewing all the 11 things that we have discussed here today, 12 Mr. Smith, is it still your wish to enter a 13 plea of guilty and waive your right to a trial 14 by jury? 15 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 16 THE COURT: Mr. Livingston, from the facts that he has told you and based 17 18 on your earlier statements I guess I know the 19 answer, but from the facts that he has told 20 you, do you concur with his plea of guilty? 21 MR. LIVINGSTON: Yes, Your 22 Honor, based on the earlier statement. 23 THE COURT: Do you know of any 24 reason that he should not plead guilty? 25 MR. LIVINGSTON: No, Your

39 1 2 Honor. 3 THE COURT: Do you have any 4 question to ask me, Mr. Smith? 5 THE WITNESS: No, sir. 6 THE COURT: Well, since you do 7 acknowledge that you are, in fact, guilty as 8 charged in Counts 1 through 4 of the Indictment 9 and based on our discussion today, I find that 10 you know your right to a trial, what the 11 maximum possible punishment is, and that you 12 are voluntarily pleading guilty, I will accept 13 your Guilty Plea and enter a judgment of guilty 14 on your plea. 15 We note that Mr. Smith has signed 16 the Change of Plea Endorsement indicating he is 17 now pleading guilty to the charges contained in 18 the Indictment and that's been countersigned by 19 Mr. Livingston. 20 I'm going to order a presentence 21 report here, Mr. Smith, and I'm told by my 22 clerk that the probation department in Scranton 23 is the one that's going to be doing the 24 probation investigation. 25 Do you understand that,

40 1 2 Mr. Livingston? 3 MR. LIVINGSTON: Yes. Your 4 Honor. One of the things we learned in this 5 case is even pretrial supervision is conducted 6 through Scranton and not Harrisburg, so that 7 makes sense. 8 THE COURT: Well, it's very 9 important that you answer the questions the 10 probation officer asks you to prepare that 11 report because naturally that report is going 12 to be important as to what the ultimate 13 sentence is going to be. 14 Now, I've been given a sentencing 15 date of Wednesday, November 10, 2010 at 11:00. 16 Now, is it your understanding that's going to 17 be here, Mr. Livingston? The sentence will be 18 in Pittsburgh? 19 MR. LIVINGSTON: I believe so. 20 MS. MOORE TAYLOR: Yes, Your 21 Honor. That is our understanding. 22 THE COURT: Okay. All right. 23 So November 10th, 11:00 here in Pittsburgh. And I take it the Government has no 24 25 objection to Mr. Smith being released on bond

41 1 2 pending sentencing? 3 MS. MOORE TAYLOR: That's 4 correct, Your Honor, we have no objection. 5 THE COURT: I think maybe that 6 Plea -- should that Plea Agreement be under 7 seal? 8 MS. MOORE TAYLOR: Yes. 9 MR. LIVINGSTON: Yes, Your 10 Honor. 11 THE COURT: We'll direct that 12 the Plea Agreement be placed under seal and I 13 think perhaps Ms. Moore's recitation of what's 14 in the Agreement ought to be under seal, too. 15 MS. MOORE TAYLOR: I agree, 16 Your Honor. 17 MR. LIVINGSTON: Judge, the 18 paper attached to the Plea Agreement is more 19 consistent with your advice of rights about the 20 jury trial, so because it's a Western District 21 of Pennsylvania document, I'm going to --22 because there's no language in here different 23 than your colloquy, I'm going to have Mr. Smith 24 sign that paper, but I don't know that that 25 needs to be made part of the record because

42 1 2 it's the colloquy for the waiver of jury trial. 3 Either way we can do it. 4 MS. MOORE TAYLOR: Let's leave 5 it. 6 THE COURT: Anything further, 7 Mr. Livingston? 8 MR. LIVINGSTON: No, Your 9 Honor. 10 THE COURT: Ms. Moore? 11 MS. MOORE TAYLOR: No, Your 12 Honor. 13 THE COURT: Well, then you're 14 free to go. And you're out under the same 15 conditions as you've been up until now on your 16 bond pending sentencing on November 10th. Court is in recess until November 10th. 17 18 19 (Proceedings concluded at 20 1:41 p.m.) 21 22 23 24 25

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2	<u>CERTIFICATE</u>
3	I hereby certify that the
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\$	2C-B [11] - 31:17,	abuse [2] - 5:3, 36:17	apparent [1] - 33:21	between [3] - 23:9,
<u>_</u>	32:3, 32:10, 34:5,	accept [1] - 39:12	appeal [1] - 21:4	24:13, 29:2 1
	34:8, 35:11, 35:14,	acceptance [1] - 30:6	appeared [1] - 37:19	beverage [1] - 5:11
\$1,000 [2] - 18:21,	35:16, 37:6, 37:10,	accident [1] - 17:2	Appellate [1] - 24:25	beverages [1] - 5:15
19:8	37:13	according [1] - 28:15	applies [1] - 20:19	beyond [1] - 7:18
\$100 [1] - 18:25		accurately [1] - 43:6	apply [1] - 19:14	binding [2] - 26:17,
\$400 [2] - 19:2, 19:9	3	acknowledge [2] -	area [1] - 31:19	28:14
		9:14, 39:7	arrive [2] - 19:22,	birth [1] - 4:2
0	3 [5] - 12:12, 12:14,	act [3] - 12:8, 16:22,	19:25	black [3] - 34:23,
	15:9, 18:6, 18:9	16:25	aspect [3] - 21:20,	34:25, 35:3
08-423 [1] - 1:7	318 [1] - 4:7	actual [1] - 35:15	22:5, 24:20	blue [1] - 34:22
	3553(b [1] - 29:25	addiction [1] - 4:24	assessment [2] -	bodily [11] - 10:23,
1	3B1.1 [2] - 24:22, 30:2	addition [1] - 18:22	18:25, 19:9	11:5, 11:10, 14:11,
_		address [1] - 4:6	assume [1] - 25:4	14:19, 17:17, 29:4,
4 40 44 44 04	4	admission [2] - 29:12,	attached [1] - 41:18	30:7, 36:3, 36:11,
1 [9] - 10:14, 14:21,	-	29:15	attempted [2] - 32:16,	36:21
18:13, 18:20, 29:3,		admitted [2] - 34:4,	32:17	Bologna [2] - 2:7,
29:17, 29:19, 30:4, 39:8	4 [4] - 13:6, 18:18,	34:7	Attorney [2] - 9:18,	30:22 bond [2] - 40:25,
	19:8, 39:8	admitting [1] - 30:18	26:9	42:16
10 [1] - 40:15 1001 [1] - 2:13	4-methyl-2,5 [7] -	advice [5] - 22:6,	attorney [6] - 6:14,	Boyer [1] - 31:15
1001 [1] - 2.13 10th [4] - 4:11, 40:23,	10:20, 11:20, 12:19,	22:11, 29:23, 30:11, 41:19	7:9, 7:11, 8:5, 20:14, 20:15	Brandler [24] - 31:14,
42:16, 42:17	14:13, 15:4, 16:7,	advisory [1] - 19:24	attorney's [1] - 26:16	31:19, 31:21, 32:2,
11:00 [2] - 40:15,	35:21	Affidavit [3] - 29:10,	attorneys [1] - 6:4	32:5, 32:7, 32:9,
40:23	4-meythl-2,5 [1] - 15:17	29:18, 30:9	Attorneys [2] - 2:4,	32:10, 32:14, 32:15,
11:30 [1] - 33:11	40 [1] - 18:13	afford [1] - 7:11	2:7	33:3, 33:4, 33:8,
1250 [2] - 2:5, 2:8	400 [1] - 31:15	age [9] - 12:17, 12:22,	authority [1] - 20:20	33:15, 34:6, 35:10,
1500 [1] - 2:13	400 [i] - 31.13	13:5, 15:10, 15:22,	AUTHORIZATION [1]	37:6, 37:13, 37:14,
15219 [1] - 1:12	5	15:24, 18:11, 38:2	- 1:24	37:18, 37:21, 37:25,
15222 [1] - 2:14	3	AGENCY [1] - 1:25	Avenue [1] - 2:13	38:2
16 [6] - 10:15, 11:15,		ago [2] - 19:17, 19:19	aware [1] - 16:21	brandler [2] - 31:23,
12:14, 13:8, 31:14,	5K [1] - 29:25	agree [3] - 23:6, 31:2,		33:10
38:3		41:15	В	Brandler's [5] - 32:24,
18 [3] - 12:17, 15:22,	6	agreed [3] - 26:14,		33:6, 33:7, 33:8,
37:25		36:18, 36:20		37:15
19 [1] - 34:11	6 [2] - 18:14, 19:7	agreeing [2] - 22:20,	b)(1)(C) [3] - 10:25,	Brandlers [1] - 33:22
19106 [2] - 2:6, 2:9	615 [2] - 2:5, 2:8	24:21	11:23, 12:24	Bruce [1] - 33:8
1988 [1] - 4:4	010[2] 2.0, 2.0	agreement [1] - 26:15	bag [6] - 34:20, 34:21,	
1:00 [1] - 1:13	7	Agreement [16] - 21:2,	34:23, 34:24, 34:25,	C
1:41 [1] - 42:20		22:25, 23:4, 23:7,	35:3 bail [2] - 25:19, 25:21	
		23:9, 24:13, 24:18,	Baker [4] - 31:25,	caller [1] - 33:14
2	700 [1] - 1:12	24:20, 25:9, 25:13,	32:5, 32:9, 34:14	car [1] - 33:5
		29:25, 30:14, 41:6,	baker [1] - 31:25	care [1] - 4:20
2 [3] - 11:14, 14:24,	8	41:12, 41:14, 41:18	baker's [1] - 35:3	case [18] - 6:14, 6:25,
18:16		agreements [2] -	Bargain [1] - 26:8	7:10, 9:20, 10:4,
2,5 [1] - 13:12	841 [3] - 10:24, 11:23,	27:10, 27:19	bargaining [1] - 26:5	14:5, 14:6, 19:2,
20 [6] - 17:19, 17:20,	12:24	alcohol [1] - 5:3 alcoholic [2] - 5:11,	based [7] - 6:10,	19:14, 20:6, 20:19,
18:5, 19:5, 29:20,	844a [1] - 13:17	5:15	28:25, 29:22, 33:14,	21:12, 28:4, 28:23,
30:16	859(a [1] - 12:25	AMERICA [1] - 1:5	38:17, 38:22, 39:9	28:24, 29:21, 31:3,
2007 [6] - 10:15,	8A [1] - 1:11	amount [5] - 10:19,	basis [9] - 9:5, 22:5,	40:5
11:15, 12:14, 13:8,		11:19, 12:19, 13:12,	26:18, 29:11, 29:16,	cases [1] - 15:13
31:14, 34:11	9	37:11	29:22, 29:24, 30:13,	caused [1] - 27:21
2010 [2] - 1:13, 40:15		amphetamine [2] -	31:10	causing [2] - 11:10,
04 4.40 40.04		35:10, 35:19	batch [1] - 32:4	14:10
21 [13] - 1:13, 10:24,	I 9 [1] - Δ····	amphetamines [1] -	became [1] - 37:14	cell [1] - 33:6 cellphone [1] - 33:24
11:22, 12:13, 12:22,	9[1] - 4:3	ap.:.c.ta		
11:22, 12:13, 12:22, 12:23, 12:25, 13:5,		35:12	bed [1] - 35:4	•
11:22, 12:13, 12:22, 12:23, 12:25, 13:5, 13:17, 15:10, 15:24,	A		BEFORE [1] - 1:15	Center [1] - 2:13
11:22, 12:13, 12:22, 12:23, 12:25, 13:5, 13:17, 15:10, 15:24, 18:11, 38:3		35:12	BEFORE [1] - 1:15 began [2] - 33:25,	Center [1] - 2:13 certain [1] - 14:7
11:22, 12:13, 12:22, 12:23, 12:25, 13:5, 13:17, 15:10, 15:24, 18:11, 38:3 24 [1] - 5:15		35:12 ample [1] - 6:13	BEFORE [1] - 1:15 began [2] - 33:25, 37:15	Center [1] - 2:13 certain [1] - 14:7 certainty [1] - 36:10
11:22, 12:13, 12:22, 12:23, 12:25, 13:5, 13:17, 15:10, 15:24, 18:11, 38:3 24 [1] - 5:15 2C [11] - 31:17, 32:3,	Α	35:12 ample [1] - 6:13 Ann [2] - 1:22, 43:15	BEFORE [1] - 1:15 began [2] - 33:25, 37:15 behalf [1] - 8:8	Center [1] - 2:13 certain [1] - 14:7 certainty [1] - 36:10 certify [1] - 43:3
11:22, 12:13, 12:22, 12:23, 12:25, 13:5, 13:17, 15:10, 15:24, 18:11, 38:3 24 [1] - 5:15 2C [11] - 31:17, 32:3, 32:10, 34:5, 34:8,	A a)(1 [3] - 10:25, 11:23, 12:24 able [3] - 4:13, 20:5,	35:12 ample [1] - 6:13 Ann [2] - 1:22, 43:15 answer [3] - 3:23,	BEFORE [1] - 1:15 began [2] - 33:25, 37:15 behalf [1] - 8:8 Bernstein [2] - 36:16,	Center [1] - 2:13 certain [1] - 14:7 certainty [1] - 36:10 certify [1] - 43:3 CERTIFYING [1] -
11:22, 12:13, 12:22, 12:23, 12:25, 13:5, 13:17, 15:10, 15:24, 18:11, 38:3 24 [1] - 5:15 2C [11] - 31:17, 32:3, 32:10, 34:5, 34:8, 35:11, 35:14, 35:16,	A a)(1 [3] - 10:25, 11:23, 12:24 able [3] - 4:13, 20:5, 30:24	35:12 ample [1] - 6:13 Ann [2] - 1:22, 43:15 answer [3] - 3:23, 38:19, 40:9	BEFORE [1] - 1:15 began [2] - 33:25, 37:15 behalf [1] - 8:8 Bernstein [2] - 36:16, 36:18	Center [1] - 2:13 certain [1] - 14:7 certainty [1] - 36:10 certify [1] - 43:3 CERTIFYING [1] - 1:24
11:22, 12:13, 12:22, 12:23, 12:25, 13:5, 13:17, 15:10, 15:24, 18:11, 38:3 24 [1] - 5:15 2C [11] - 31:17, 32:3, 32:10, 34:5, 34:8,	A a)(1 [3] - 10:25, 11:23, 12:24 able [3] - 4:13, 20:5,	35:12 ample [1] - 6:13 Ann [2] - 1:22, 43:15 answer [3] - 3:23, 38:19, 40:9 answered [1] - 33:7	BEFORE [1] - 1:15 began [2] - 33:25, 37:15 behalf [1] - 8:8 Bernstein [2] - 36:16,	Center [1] - 2:13 certain [1] - 14:7 certainty [1] - 36:10 certify [1] - 43:3 CERTIFYING [1] -

16:7, 35:22

direct [1] - 41:11

directed [1] - 34:16

CHANCE to 1:17
CHANGE [1] - 1:17
charge [2] - 7:12, 35:8
charged [5] - 13:24,
16:16, 16:22, 30:19,
39:8
charges [6] - 6:17,
7:5, 10:7, 10:14,
11:15, 39:17
chemical [2] - 13:15,
35:15
Chestnut [2] - 2:5, 2:8
choose [1] - 26:22
chose [1] - 8:18
chosen [1] - 30:12
Christopher [1] - 37:4
circumstances [3] -
16:23, 20:20, 21:3
claim [1] - 27:18
clear [5] - 5:23, 26:10,
34:20, 34:24
clerk [1] - 39:22
client [2] - 3:6, 4:14
Code [6] - 10:24, 11:2,
11:22, 12:23, 13:17,
17:10
coherently [1] - 32:18
COHILL [2] - 1:15, 3:5
colloquy [3] - 25:5,
41:23, 42:2
comment [1] - 28:22
communicate [1] -
4:13
compel [2] - 8:13, 29:6
competency [1] - 6:5
competent [2] - 6:12,
7:17
completed [1] - 20:7
completely [1] - 28:16
composition [1] -
13:15
compulsory [1] - 8:12
concerning [1] - 21:17
concluded [1] - 42:19
concur[1] - 38:20
condition [4] - 32:16,
32:24, 33:17, 37:15
conditions [2] - 21:6,
42:15
conducted [1] - 40:5
confession [2] -
21:16, 22:14
confirmed [1] - 35:20
connection [1] - 6:17
conscious [2] - 16:21,
28:15
consequently [1] -
32:21
consider [2] - 17:9,
17:12
consideration [1] -
30:13
considering [1] - 9:6
consistent [5] - 22:10,

24:16, 25:8, 29:12, 41:19 constituted [1] - 36:21 constitutional [2] -6:24, 7:3 consulted [1] - 36:15 contained [3] - 7:5, 39:17, 43:5 containing [5] - 10:19, 11:19, 12:18, 13:11, 34.24 contents [1] - 24:17 context [1] - 21:21 controlled [24] -10:22, 11:4, 11:21, 12:2, 12:21, 13:3, 13:14, 13:20, 14:13, 14:17, 14:18, 14:20, 15:3, 15:6, 15:7, 15:16, 15:20, 16:6, 16:9, 16:10, 17:16, 18:3, 18:10, 18:19 convinced [1] - 25:13 copy [1] - 10:3 correct [3] - 3:8, 41:4, 43:11 COUNSEL [1] - 2:2 Counsel [1] - 23:10 Count [13] - 11:14, 12:12, 12:14, 13:6, 14:21, 14:24, 15:9, 18:9, 18:18, 29:3, 29:17, 29:19, 30:4 count [7] - 10:14, 11:9, 14:7, 16:4, 17:16, 18:2, 18:25 countersigned [1] -39:18 counts [5] - 10:13, 14:9, 19:2, 29:21, 30:19 Counts [1] - 39:8 course [2] - 9:19, 15:12 court [1] - 42:17 COURT [85] - 1:2, 3:11, 3:14, 3:18, 3:25, 4:5, 4:9, 4:12, 4:18, 4:22, 5:2, 5:5, 5:9, 5:13, 5:17, 5:20, 5:23, 6:3, 6:10, 6:16, 6:19, 6:22, 7:8, 7:14, 7:21, 8:2, 8:10, 8:16, 8:23, 9:8, 9:16, 9:22, 10:2, 10:6, 10:10, 11:8, 12:12, 13:23, 14:3, 14:24, 16:3, 16:15, 16:18, 17:6, 19:12, 19:16, 20:12, 20:17, 20:24, 21:9, 21:14, 21:25, 22:13, 22:24, 24:15, 25:6, 25:11, 25:23, 26:3, 26:12, 26:21, 27:4, 27:8, 27:16, 28:2,

28:6, 28:10, 28:19, 30:17, 30:21, 31:6, 31:12, 38:6, 38:10, 38:16, 38:23, 39:3, 39:6, 40:8, 40:22, 41:5, 41:11, 42:6, 42:10, 42:13 Court [14] - 1:22, 3:4, 8:4, 8:14, 17:12, 19:17, 19:18, 21:5, 25:4, 27:9, 27:23, 29:12, 31:11, 34:4 Courthouse [1] - 1:11 Courtroom [1] - 1:11 Courts [1] - 19:19 crime [3] - 11:2, 11:24, 13:18 criminal [1] - 14:6 cross [1] - 8:6 cross-examine [1] -8:6 curious [1] - 30:2

D

damage [1] - 36:24 data [1] - 6:4 date [3] - 3:25, 27:17, 40:15 Dawn [2] - 31:24, 34:14 deal [2] - 33:4, 37:18 death [2] - 36:5, 36:12 decide [1] - 28:20 decision [1] - 33:2 **Defendant** [7] - 1:9, 2:10, 3:13, 10:17, 11:17, 12:16, 13:9 **Defenders** [1] - 2:12 **define** [1] - 16:19 **definition** [1] - 30:7 degree [1] - 36:10 deliberately [1] - 17:2 department [1] - 39:22 described [2] - 9:2, 33:17 desire [1] - 3:7 desk [2] - 34:22, 34:23 detectable [4] - 10:19, 11:19, 12:19, 13:11 deteriorating [1] -32:15 determine [2] - 20:5, 22:18 determined [3] -20:18, 35:7, 36:2 diagnosis [1] - 36:19 different [6] - 13:15, 20:13, 22:3, 31:20, 32:12, 41:22 dimethoxyampheta mine 191 - 10:20. 11:20, 12:20, 13:12,

direction [2] - 32:22, 34:18 disagree [1] - 20:10 discovery [3] - 21:20, 22:3, 29:6 discuss [1] - 6:14 discussed [5] - 9:22, 10:6, 22:7, 25:17, 38:11 discussion [2] -29:13, 39:9 discussions [1] -28:25 dispose [1] - 28:4 distribute [2] - 11:3, 11:25 distributed [7] -10:18, 11:18, 12:18. 14:15, 15:6, 15:19, 37:24 distributing [1] - 13:3 distribution [10] -11:9, 11:13, 12:13, 14:10, 14:25, 15:10, 15:23, 17:16, 18:3, 18:10 **DISTRICT** [2] - 1:2, 1:2 district [1] - 25:4 District [9] - 2:5, 2:8, 2:12, 10:16, 11:16, 12:15, 13:9, 19:19, 41:20 doctor [2] - 29:8, 30:10 **Doctor** [1] - 29:18 document [2] - 21:22, 41:21 **DOET** [6] - 13:13, 13:20, 35:7, 35:10, 35:16 dollars [3] - 17:25, 18:8, 18:17 DOM [17] - 10:21, 11:4, 11:21, 12:2, 12:21, 13:4, 13:16, 14:15, 15:5, 15:18, 16:8, 35:9, 35:16, 35:21 done [2] - 6:20, 35:17 Donovan [3] - 35:23, 36:6, 36:9 Donovan's [1] - 36:19 doubt [1] - 7:18

Dr [6] - 35:23, 36:6,

drawn [1] - 8:20

drink [1] - 32:20

dropped [1] - 31:19

drove [1] - 31:14

Drive [1] - 4:8

36:19

36:9, 36:15, 36:17,

drug [8] - 5:10, 13:15, 33:21, 33:23, 34:17, 2 35:15, 36:19, 37:7 drugs [4] - 5:14, 32:6, 34:17, 37:25 during [2] - 9:18, 32:11

Ε

easier[1] - 30:8 Eastern [2] - 2:5, 2:8 either [3] - 6:3, 20:14, 42:3 electing [1] - 22:11 elements [4] - 14:7, 14:8, 28:23, 29:3 **emergency** [1] - 30:10 encountered [2] -33:16, 33:23 end [1] - 33:13 Endorsement [1] -39:16 engaged [1] - 16:22 enhanced [1] - 13:2 Enola [2] - 4:7, 4:8 enter [8] - 3:7, 8:23, 9:4, 9:8, 9:24, 27:21, 38:12, 39:13 entitled [4] - 7:4, 8:11, 24:23, 26:25 Eppley [1] - 32:25 Erik [12] - 31:14, 31:16, 33:2, 33:8, 33:16, 34:4, 34:6, 35:10, 35:17, 36:2, 37:25, 38:2 erik's [1] - 36:5 Erik's [5] - 33:17, 33:24, 35:23, 35:25, 36:11 Esq [3] - 2:4, 2:7, 2:11 essential [2] - 24:13, 29:3 establish [2] - 14:25, 15:11 events [3] - 9:17, 29:11, 31:2 evidence [7] - 7:17, 8:7, 8:8, 29:14, 31:9, 38:5, 43:5 exactly [1] - 5:24 examine [1] - 8:6 excuse [1] - 5:19 executed [2] - 34:12, 34:13 expect [1] - 30:24

F

expert [1] - 29:6

face [2] - 17:20, 17:21 fact [7] - 8:21, 27:14,

14:14, 15:4, 15:17,

29:24, 32:9, 34:8, 36:20, 39:7	given [5] - 3:20, 34:15, 37:2, 37:4, 40:14	34:17, 37:21 Honor [18] - 3:10, 6:7,	34:10 ingest [1] - 32:6	34:15, 37:5 JUSTIN [1] - 3:16
facts [5] - 6:17, 16:23,	Government [24] -	6:9, 21:20, 23:9,	ingested [2] - 35:15,	
20:8, 38:17, 38:19	2:3, 7:16, 8:4, 8:7,	24:12, 26:2, 31:5,	37:13	K
factual [8] - 22:5, 28:23, 29:11, 29:16,	8:8, 14:4, 14:6, 20:7, 21:4, 21:17, 23:3,	38:4, 38:22, 39:2, 40:4, 40:21, 41:4,	ingesting [1] - 37:10 initial [2] - 35:17,	
29:22, 29:24, 30:13,	23:10, 24:14, 24:21,	41:10, 41:16, 42:9,	36:19	Kauffman [1] - 37:4
31:10	25:18, 25:20, 26:15,	42:12	injury [12] - 10:23,	keyboard [1] - 34:21
faculty [1] - 36:14	26:23, 29:2, 30:8,	HONORABLE [1] -	11:5, 11:10, 14:11,	kind [1] - 9:3
fair [2] - 20:2, 38:6	30:23, 31:8, 36:15,	1:15	14:19, 17:17, 29:4,	kinds [1] - 17:8
fairly [1] - 31:10	40:24	hopefully [1] - 20:2	30:7, 36:3, 36:5,	knowingly [16] -
FAITHE [1] - 6:8	government [1] -	Hospital [4] - 33:19,	36:11, 36:21	10:17, 11:3, 11:17, 11:25, 12:4, 12:5,
Faithe [1] - 2:4	37:23	33:20, 35:18, 35:24	innocent [3] - 7:16,	12:17, 13:2, 13:10,
false [1] - 3:22	Government's [1] - 38:5	hospital [2] - 34:7, 37:16	7:22, 7:24 inside [4] - 34:14,	13:19, 14:12, 15:2,
familiar [1] - 25:3 family [1] - 35:11	grade [1] - 4:11	hospitalized [3] -	34:23, 34:25, 35:2	15:15, 16:5, 16:19,
far [5] - 4:9, 29:14,	grand [1] - 29:8	4:23, 5:3, 5:6	instance [1] - 27:12	16:20
29:19, 30:15, 38:7	Grant [1] - 1:12	hours [3] - 5:15,	intend [1] - 10:8	known [13] - 10:21,
father [1] - 33:8	great [1] - 30:15	32:12, 32:23	intended [1] - 12:7	11:20, 12:20, 13:12,
Federal [1] - 2:12	green [1] - 34:24		intentionally [17] -	13:16, 14:14, 14:15, 15:4, 15:5, 15:18,
few [3] - 19:17, 19:18,	groggy [1] - 32:8	I	10:18, 11:3, 11:18,	16:7, 16:8
21:2	guard [1] - 26:6		11:25, 12:4, 12:7,	10.7, 10.0
figure [2] - 19:21,	guess [1] - 38:18	idea [1] - 10:11	12:17, 13:3, 13:10,	L
19:24	Guideline [6] - 19:22,	identified [1] - 35:20	13:19, 14:12, 15:2,	
file [1] - 22:11	19:25, 20:5, 20:18, 30:5, 30:7	identify [1] - 33:13	15:16, 16:5, 16:19, 16:24, 16:25	1-h 05-0
filed [3] - 10:3, 29:5, 31:10	Guidelines [5] - 17:13,	illness [1] - 5:7	interacted [1] - 32:14	lab [1] - 35:6
filing [1] - 22:8	19:14, 19:21, 20:22,	immediately [1] -	interviewed [1] -	language [5] - 24:24, 25:3, 30:2, 41:22
fine [5] - 5:22, 17:24,	24:22	33:18	31:25	last [2] - 14:18, 16:3
18:7, 18:16, 18:21	guilt [2] - 8:20, 9:14	impairment [1] - 36:13	interviews [1] - 31:20	lastly [1] - 37:23
fines [1] - 19:8	guilty [22] - 3:8, 7:17,	important [4] - 26:4, 28:11, 40:9, 40:12	investigation [2] -	law [4] - 12:3, 14:18,
first [4] - 7:2, 17:9,	8:24, 9:4, 9:5, 9:9,	impose [6] - 18:24,	35:13, 39:24	26:19, 28:16
17:14, 17:15	9:13, 9:24, 10:8,	20:20, 21:5, 26:22,	involved [1] - 36:12	lawn [2] - 33:6, 33:9
five [1] - 32:11	21:12, 25:14, 27:2, 28:20, 30:16, 30:18,	26:24, 28:8	IS [1] - 1:24	laws [1] - 7:3
focus [2] - 32:16,	38:13, 38:20, 38:24,	imprisonment [7] -	items [1] - 34:19	Lawson [1] - 36:16
32:17 follow [3] - 19:20,	39:7, 39:12, 39:13,	17:18, 17:22, 18:5,	J	lawyer [2] - 26:14,
30:12, 32:22	39:17	18:12, 18:14, 18:20,	.	26:24 leafy [1] - 34:24
following [5] - 25:19,	Guilty [2] - 26:18,	19:5		learned [1] - 40:4
28:16, 31:9, 31:23,	39:13	IN [1] - 1:2	jacket [1] - 35:3	least [1] - 15:22
34:19		inadvertently [1] - 17:3	Jason [1] - 2:7 job [1] - 6:20	leave [1] - 42:4
follows [2] - 23:11,	H	included [3] - 22:6,	John [2] - 31:14, 34:2	led [1] - 36:23
37:5		29:24, 36:6	Jones [4] - 31:14,	Lee [1] - 1:22
FOR [1] - 1:2	hallucinate [1] - 37:15	including [3] - 29:15,	31:18, 34:2, 34:4	left [5] - 31:19, 33:5,
forced [1] - 21:10	hallucinating [1] -	31:21, 32:19	Joseph [1] - 33:2	36:4, 36:22, 37:22
foregoing [1] - 6:11 forensic [1] - 36:16	32:8	incoherency [1] - 36:7	JR [2] - 1:15, 3:5	leniency [3] - 27:13,
four [3] - 10:12, 19:2,	hallucinations [1] -	incoherent [2] - 33:17,	Judge [7] - 4:17, 7:19,	28:7, 28:12
30:19	36:6	37:14	15:14, 20:19, 25:16,	less [3] - 17:19, 19:23, 20:21
fourth [1] - 15:21	Harrisburg [4] - 33:20,	increased [1] - 36:7	28:21, 41:17	level [2] - 24:23, 24:24
free [1] - 42:14	35:18, 35:24, 40:6 hear [5] - 22:4, 29:9,	incriminate [1] - 9:11	JUDGE [1] - 3:5	Liberty [2] - 2:13, 2:13
freely [1] - 22:15	29:10, 29:23, 30:10	indicate [1] - 21:11 indicated [6] - 3:7,	judgment [2] - 9:4, 39:13	life [4] - 17:19, 17:21,
FROM [1] - 1:24	hearing [5] - 22:17,	35:18, 36:25, 37:5,	July [1] - 1:13	19:4, 36:24
front [3] - 32:7, 33:5,	22:22, 25:7, 25:20,	37:14, 37:20	jury [7] - 7:5, 7:19,	lifetime [4] - 17:24,
37:22	43:9	indicating [1] - 39:16	15:14, 29:8, 38:14,	18:7, 18:15, 19:6
fully [1] - 43:6	heart [1] - 36:7	Indictment [7] - 7:6,	41:20, 42:2	listed [1] - 33:25
•	help [1] - 33:10	10:3, 10:8, 10:14,	Justin [19] - 10:17,	Livingston [8] - 2:11,
G	hereby [1] - 43:3	11:14, 39:8, 39:18	11:17, 12:16, 13:9,	19:13, 22:16, 23:5,
	higher [1] - 30:5	individuals [4] -	29:13, 29:23, 30:3,	25:8, 30:25, 38:16, 39:19
generally [1] - 35:11	Holy [1] - 33:18	32:12, 32:14, 32:25,	31:15, 31:18, 31:24,	livingston [9] - 3:6,
generated [1] - 29:7	home [12] - 31:15,	33:25	32:8, 32:24, 34:5,	4:12, 10:7, 21:15,
generic [1] - 35:14	31:18, 31:22, 31:23, 32:13, 33:3, 33:7,	inference [1] - 8:20 influence [1] - 5:10	34:9, 34:12, 34:13, 36:25, 37:24, 37:25	22:20, 24:16, 40:2,
girlfriend [1] - 31:24	34.5 34.12 34.14	information (2) - 34·3	iustin (4) - 1:8 3:16	40:17, 42:7

 $\textbf{information} \ [2] \textbf{ - } 34\text{:}3,$

justin [4] - 1:8, 3:16,

34:5, 34:12, 34:14,

LIVINGSTON [15] -3:9, 4:16, 6:6, 21:19, 22:2, 24:19, 25:16, 28:21, 38:21, 38:25, 40:3, 40:19, 41:9, 41:17, 42:8 located [1] - 34:21 location [1] - 34:16 look [1] - 19:23 looking [2] - 19:3, 28:23 loss [2] - 36:13, 36:24

M

major [1] - 24:17

makeup [1] - 35:16 male [1] - 37:8 mandatory [7] - 17:22, 18:5, 18:12, 18:14, 19:5, 19:7, 30:16 matter [2] - 21:18, 31:8 MAURICE [2] - 1:15, maximum [8] - 17:19, 17:21, 18:4, 18:13, 18:20, 19:4, 26:19, 39:11 mean [1] - 12:5 means [3] - 7:22, 16:20, 16:25 medical [1] - 36:10 medicine [2] - 5:10, 5:14 mental [2] - 5:6, 36:13 mentally [2] - 5:18, 5:21 mentioned [1] - 18:23 met [1] - 31:23 method [1] - 37:10 MIDDLE [1] - 1:2 Middle [4] - 10:16, 11:16, 12:15, 13:8 might [8] - 19:14, 20:9, 20:13, 21:5, 26:13, 26:17, 26:23, million [4] - 17:25, 18:8, 18:16, 19:8 mind [1] - 26:10 minimum [9] - 17:20, 17:23, 18:5, 18:12, 18:14, 19:5, 19:7, 29:20, 30:16 minute [1] - 29:9 minutes [1] - 21:3 Miranda [4] - 21:24, 22:7, 34:15, 37:2 Mishalko [1] - 33:2 mistake [2] - 12:6, 17:2 misunderstanding [1] - 26:7

mixture [4] - 10:18, 11:18, 12:18, 13:11 MOORE [12] - 6:8, 23:8, 25:25, 31:4, 31:7, 31:13, 40:20, 41:3, 41:8, 41:15, 42:4, 42:11 Moore [4] - 2:4, 25:7, 30:22, 42:10 moore's [1] - 41:13 Moore's [1] - 23:6 mother [2] - 33:24, 34:8 motion [3] - 22:10, 22:12, 29:6 motions [2] - 22:8, 22:9 motivated [1] - 27:20 MR [16] - 3:9, 3:16, 4:16, 6:6, 21:19, 22:2, 24:19, 25:16, 28:21, 38:21, 38:25, 40:3, 40:19, 41:9, 41:17, 42:8 MS [12] - 6:8, 23:8, 25:25, 31:4, 31:7, 31:13, 40:20, 41:3, 41:8, 41:15, 42:4, 42:11

N

name [3] - 3:15, 11:9,

multicolor [1] - 35:2

35:14 namely [4] - 14:13, 15:3, 15:17, 16:6 narcotic [2] - 4:23, 5:10 naturally [1] - 40:11 near [1] - 35:4 need [1] - 22:21 needed [1] - 33:10 needs [1] - 41:25 negotiations [1] - 9:19 never [1] - 32:5 next [1] - 32:11 Nexus [13] - 10:21, 11:4, 11:21, 12:2, 12:20, 13:4, 13:13, 13:20, 14:14, 15:5, 15:18, 16:8, 35:14 night [3] - 31:22, 33:12, 37:6 note [3] - 13:14, 25:5, 39:15 notes [1] - 43:8 notice [1] - 28:12 November [5] - 4:3, 40:15, 40:23, 42:16, 42:17

0

oath [1] - 3:21 object [1] - 8:7 objection [2] - 40:25, 41:4 observed [2] - 32:15, 36:5 observing [1] - 32:24 **OF** [5] - 1:2, 1:4, 1:17, 1:19, 1:24 offense [3] - 14:8, 16:24, 24:24 offer [1] - 8:8 offered [1] - 8:7 Office [3] - 2:4, 2:7, 2:12 officer [2] - 20:9, 40:10 Officer [1] - 37:4 officers [1] - 34:16 old [2] - 38:2, 38:3 omission [1] - 22:14 omissions [1] - 21:16 one [17] - 7:12, 11:11, 11:12, 17:25, 18:8, 21:20, 21:22, 22:4. 22:8, 24:19, 25:17, 28:3, 29:2, 29:20, 37:16, 39:23, 40:4 ongoing [2] - 28:25, 29:13 open [1] - 27:23 opined [1] - 36:9 opinion [1] - 29:17 opportunity [4] - 6:13,

P

20:8, 22:17, 27:22

order [5] - 9:12, 19:22,

19:25, 25:22, 39:20

out-of-Court [1] - 27:9

overdose [6] - 33:21,

36:2, 36:11, 36:20,

overdosed [1] - 37:7

oppose [1] - 26:16

Order [1] - 3:4

organ [1] - 36:23

ought [1] - 41:14

outside [1] - 33:15

36:21, 36:22

own [1] - 28:15

p.m [2] - 1:13, 42:20 **PA**[4] - 1:12, 2:6, 2:9, 2.14 paper [2] - 41:18, 41:24 paraphernalia [1] -34:17 parents [1] - 33:3 parents' [1] - 33:5 part [1] - 41:25

41:12, 41:18

PLEA [1] - 1:17

38:24

39.17

plead [6] - 6:12, 10:8,

pleading [2] - 39:12,

21:11, 25:14, 28:20,

participation [1] police [3] - 21:16, 38:8 particular [3] - 11:24, 13:18, 36:22 partied [1] - 32:13 party [1] - 37:8 passed [1] - 32:23 past [1] - 5:15 penalties [6] - 3:22, 13:2, 17:7, 17:8, 17:11, 18:23 pending [2] - 41:2, 42:16 PENNSYLVANIA [1] -1:2 Pennsylvania [10] -2:5, 2:8, 2:12, 4:8, 10:17, 11:17, 12:16, 13:9, 31:16, 41:21 people [1] - 37:9 perhaps [1] - 41:13 perjury [1] - 3:22 permanent [2] - 36:4, 36:23 permitted [1] - 26:19 person [8] - 10:23, 12:13, 12:22, 13:4, 15:10, 18:11, 27:20, 33:12 Philadelphia [2] - 2:6, 2:9 **phone** [3] - 33:6, 33:7, 33:13 physically [2] - 5:18, 5:21 physician [2] - 4:20, 35:24 pieces [1] - 22:3 pill [1] - 5:11 pills [1] - 5:14 pipe [2] - 34:22, 35:2 Pittsburgh [4] - 1:12, 2:14, 40:18, 40:23 place [1] - 26:5 placed [1] - 41:12 placing [1] - 37:11 Plaintiff [1] - 1:6 plastic [1] - 34:20 plea [11] - 3:7, 8:24, 9:5, 9:9, 9:19, 9:24, 21:7, 27:2, 38:13, 38:20, 39:14 Plea [16] - 20:25, 22:25, 23:4, 25:9, 25:13, 26:7, 26:18, 27:21, 29:25, 30:13, 39:13, 39:16, 41:6,

34:11, 37:10 possess [2] - 13:19, 16:10 possessed [5] -13:10, 14:12, 15:3, 15:16, 16:6 possessing [1] - 35:8 possession [3] - 13:7, 16:4, 18:18 possible [3] - 17:7, 26:6, 39:11 postponements [1] -28:24 potent [1] - 32:4 potential [1] - 22:9 powder [2] - 34:19, 35.5 preceding [1] - 22:6 predicted [3] - 20:15, 28:7, 28:11 prediction [1] - 27:5 prepare [1] - 40:10 prepared [1] - 29:10 prescription [2] -16:11, 16:12 presence [2] - 8:5, 35:19 PRESENT [1] - 2:2 present [2] - 31:9, 37:12 presentence [3] - 9:6, 20:6, 39:20 presumed [2] - 7:15, 7:22 pretrial [2] - 22:8, 40:5 probation [4] - 20:9, 39:22, 39:24, 40:10 proceed [1] - 31:5 proceeded [1] - 33:15 Proceedings [1] -42:19 proceedings [2] -7:10, 43:5 PROCEEDINGS [1] -1:19 process [1] - 8:12 production [1] - 29:7 progressed [1] - 29:5 PROHIBITED [1] promise [4] - 25:12, 27:5. 27:13. 27:14 promised [2] - 28:7, 28:12 promises [3] - 27:9, 27:18, 28:3 prosecution [1] -26:15 prospect [1] - 22:8 protracted [1] - 36:13 prove [14] - 7:17, 7:23, 14:5, 14:7, 14:11, 14:21, 15:2, 15:12,

^
putting [1] - 28:12
25:21
pursuant [2] - 16:11,
purpose [2] - 12:9, 31:16
• · · · ·
purchased [1] - 37:7
34:5
purchase [2] - 31:17,
punishment [1] - 39:11
Public [1] - 2:12
public [1] - 7:5
psychiatrist [1] - 4:20
provides [1] - 12:25
37:8
provided [2] - 7:12,
16:5, 30:8, 30:24
15:13, 15:15, 15:22

Q

questions [6] - 3:20, 6:11, 9:12, 16:16, 27:11, 40:9 quote [2] - 30:3, 37:17 quoting [1] - 10:15

R

range [1] - 30:5 rate [1] - 36:8 reached [1] - 31:18 read [2] - 10:12, 31:12 reason [1] - 38:24 reasonable [2] - 7:18, 36:10 recalled [2] - 31:25, 33:10 receive [1] - 26:18 received [4] - 10:2, 21:23, 33:11, 33:20 recently [1] - 4:19 recess [1] - 42:17 recitation [1] - 41:13 recommendation [1] -26:13 recommended [1] -26:23 recommending [1] -25:20 record [4] - 3:15, 9:14, 10:11, 41:25 recorded [1] - 20:8 records [1] - 36:18 recovered [1] - 35:6 recovery [1] - 34:18 **REDACTED** [1] - 1:18 reduction [1] - 24:24 referred [1] - 35:5 refers [1] - 22:3 regarding [2] - 9:17, 29.6

Reid [2] - 1:22, 43:15

41:19

36:12

Rights [1] - 34:15

ruling [1] - 19:19

rushed [1] - 33:18

s/Lee [1] - 43:15

risk [3] - 30:14, 30:15,

room [2] - 30:10, 32:6

S

related [1] - 34:3 relates [1] - 25:19 relayed [1] - 34:10 release [8] - 17:23, 17:24, 18:6, 18:7, 18:15, 18:16, 19:6, 19:8 released [2] - 25:21, 40:25 relevant [1] - 26:5 remain [1] - 25:21 report [6] - 9:6, 20:6, 35:17, 39:21, 40:11 Reported [1] - 1:21 Reporter [1] - 1:22 representation [3] -25:12, 26:8, 28:13 representations [2] -27:9, 27:19 representatives [1] -21:17 **REPRODUCTION** [1] -1:24 requested [1] - 26:16 require [2] - 27:10, 30:9 required [3] - 7:16, 18:24, 19:20 residue [2] - 34:22, 35:2 respect [1] - 28:7 respects [1] - 25:2 respond [2] - 27:11, 32:18 responsibility [1] -30:6 resulted [5] - 10:22, 14:19, 34:18, 35:7, 36:4 results [2] - 11:5, 17:17 retrieves [1] - 33:24 returned [1] - 32:6 revealed [2] - 31:22, 35.13 reviewed [3] - 23:2, 24:25, 36:18 reviewing [3] - 21:22, 28:22, 38:10 ride [1] - 29:21 rights [6] - 6:23, 6:24, 9:2, 9:23, 22:6,

sandwich [1] - 34:24 satisfaction [2] - 7:18, 15:14 satisfied [1] - 6:19 satisfy [1] - 9:13 saw [2] - 29:17, 32:5 Schedule [4] - 10:22, 11:21, 12:21, 13:13 school [1] - 4:10 Scranton [2] - 39:22, 40:6 screen [1] - 35:20 seal [3] - 41:7, 41:12, 41:14 search [2] - 34:11, 34:13 second [2] - 11:11, 18:2 secondly [1] - 17:12 Section [5] - 10:24, 11:23, 12:24, 12:25, 13:17 section [3] - 11:2, 11:24, 13:18 sense [2] - 4:14, 40:7 **Sentence** [1] - 20:5 **sentence** [19] - 9:4, 17:20, 18:13, 19:4, 20:3, 20:13, 20:21, 20:22, 21:5, 26:13, 26:17, 26:19, 26:22, 26:24, 27:6, 28:8, 28:15, 40:13, 40:17 sentencing [3] -40:14, 41:2, 42:16 Sentencing [4] -17:13, 19:13, 19:20, 24:22 serious [8] - 10:23, 11:5, 11:10, 14:18, 17:17, 29:4, 30:7, 36:3 seriously [2] - 14:10, 36:21 set [1] - 21:6 several [3] - 28:24, 32:23, 37:9 severe [3] - 20:21, 26:24 **shared** [1] - 34:2 **shorthand** [2] - 11:8, 11:12 sign [1] - 41:24 signed [1] - 39:15 significant [1] - 31:10 similar [1] - 25:2 **simply** [1] - 13:6 **situation** [1] - 33:4 six [1] - 32:12 small [1] - 37:11 Street [4] - 1:12, 2:5, Smith [48] - 3:17, 3:18,

23:5, 23:10, 24:14, 24:23, 25:6, 25:18, 25:21, 26:3, 28:20, 29:14, 29:23, 30:3, 30:11, 31:18, 31:22, 31:24, 32:2, 32:8, 32:13, 32:19, 32:24, 34:9, 34:14, 34:15, 35:8, 37:2, 37:5, 37:9, 37:20, 37:24, 37:25, 38:12, 39:4, 39:15, 39:21, 40:25, 41:23 SMITH [2] - 1:8, 3:16 Smith's [7] - 6:4, 31:15, 31:18, 32:7, 34:5, 34:12, 34:22 snorted [1] - 32:10 **snorting** [1] - 37:13 so-called [2] - 17:13, 18:24 solely [1] - 35:18 son [3] - 33:9, 33:16, 33:23 sorry [1] - 21:25 sort [2] - 5:6, 29:21 South [1] - 4:7 special [2] - 18:24, 19:9 specialty [1] - 36:17 specified [1] - 24:20 speedy [1] - 7:4 Spirit [1] - 33:18 spoken [1] - 34:7 stage [1] - 7:10 stand [1] - 3:11 **state** [2] - 3:14, 37:23 statement [12] - 21:22, 22:4, 22:7, 22:12, 22:15, 22:18, 23:6, 31:2, 37:3, 37:4, 38:7, 38:22 statements [3] - 3:22, 9:17, 38:18 **STATES** [2] - 1:2, 1:4 states [2] - 12:14, 13:7 States [9] - 2:3, 7:4, 10:24, 11:22, 12:23, 13:17, 17:10, 19:18, 26:9 States' [1] - 20:14 status [1] - 25:19 Statute [2] - 17:10, 17:15 **statutory** [3] - 17:18, 18:12, 18:22 stenographic [1] -43:8 still [3] - 9:23, 30:4,

18:4, 18:11, 18:19, 30:4 **subpoena** [1] - 8:13 Subsections [3] -10:25, 11:23, 12:24 subsequently [1] -36:9 substance [38] -10:19, 10:22, 11:4, 11:19, 11:21, 12:2, 12:18, 12:21, 13:4, 13:11, 13:14, 13:20, 14:13, 14:16, 14:17, 14:20, 15:3, 15:6, 15:7, 15:8, 15:16, 15:19, 15:20, 16:6, 16:9, 16:10, 17:16, 18:3, 18:10, 18:19, 34:25, 35:9, 35:21, 36:17 substantial [2] -30:14, 36:12 **suffered** [1] - 36:2 **sufficient** [2] - 29:16, 30:12 **suggestion** [1] - 8:20 Suite [2] - 2:5, 2:8 summarize [1] - 31:11 summary [5] - 21:21, 23:4, 23:9, 37:3, 38:4 Summerdale [5] -10:16, 11:16, 12:15, 13:8, 31:16 supervised [8] -17:23, 17:24, 18:6, 18:7, 18:15, 18:16, 19:6, 19:7 supervision [1] - 40:5 suppress [2] - 22:10, 22:12 suppression [1] -22:17 Supreme [2] - 19:17, 19:18 surrounding [1] -16:23 **swallowing** [1] - 37:12 sweating [1] - 36:7 sworn [3] - 3:12, 3:13, 3:19 symptoms [2] - 35:25, 36:5 synthetic [3] - 35:10, 35:12, 35:19 Т

tail [1] - 29:21 Taylor [1] - 2:4 TAYLOR [12] - 6:8, 23:8, 25:25, 31:4, 31:7, 31:13, 40:20, 41:3, 41:8, 41:15,

4:18, 6:12, 6:25,

10:17, 11:17, 12:16,

13:10, 21:9, 22:11,

38:12

2:8, 31:15

studied [1] - 35:25

subject [5] - 3:21,

42:4, 42:11 term [5] - 16:20, 17:18, 18:4, 18:20, terms [3] - 24:13, 25:22, 26:7 testify [5] - 8:5, 8:14, 8:18, 8:19, 8:21 testimony [2] - 29:7, THE [142] - 1:2, 1:2, 1:15, 1:24, 3:14, 3:18, 3:24, 3:25, 4:5, 4:9, 4:11, 4:12, 4:18, 4:21, 4:22, 4:25, 5:2, 5:4, 5:5, 5:8, 5:9, 5:12, 5:13, 5:16, 5:17, 5:19, 5:20, 5:22, 5:23, 6:2, 6:3, 6:10, 6:16, 6:18, 6:19, 6:22, 7:7, 7:13, 7:14, 7:20, 7:21, 7:25, 8:2, 8:9, 8:10, 8:15, 8:22, 8:23, 9:7, 9:8, 9:15, 9:16, 9:21, 9:22, 9:25, 10:2, 10:5, 10:6, 10:9, 10:10, 11:7, 11:8, 12:11, 12:12, 13:22, 13:23, 14:2, 14:3, 14:23, 14:24, 16:2, 16:3, 16:14, 16:15, 16:17, 16:18, 17:5, 17:6, 19:11, 19:12, 19:15, 19:16, 20:11, 20:12, 20:16, 20:17, 20:23, 20:24, 21:8, 21:9, 21:13, 21:14, 21:25, 22:13, 22:23, 22:24, 24:15, 25:6, 25:10, 25:11, 25:15, 25:23, 26:3, 26:11, 26:12, 26:20, 26:21, 27:3, 27:4, 27:7, 27:8, 27:15, 27:16, 27:25, 28:2, 28:5, 28:6, 28:9, 28:10, 28:18, 28:19, 30:17, 30:20, 30:21, 31:6, 31:12, 38:6, 38:9, 38:10, 38:15, 38:16, 38:23, 39:3, 39:5, 39:6, 40:8, 40:22, 41:5, 41:11, 42:6, 42:10, 42:13 themselves [1] - 33:13 therefore [1] - 26:25 THIS [1] - 1:24 Thomas [1] - 2:11 THOMAS [1] - 3:9 threatened [1] - 21:10 threats [1] - 27:20 three [2] - 17:23,

24:23

tissue [1] - 37:11

Title [4] - 11:22, 12:23, 12:25, 13:16 today [11] - 3:8, 5:11, 8:24, 9:9, 9:24, 22:5, 25:14, 27:17, 30:18, 38:11, 39:9 today's [1] - 25:19 took [4] - 12:8, 33:6, 37:16, 37:21 topic [2] - 25:5, 25:17 total [1] - 19:4 totaling [1] - 19:8 toxicologist [1] -36:16 toxicology [1] - 35:20 transcript [1] - 43:11 TRANSCRIPT [3] -1:18, 1:19, 1:24 transferred [1] - 33:19 treated [4] - 4:23, 5:3, 5:6, 34:7 treating [3] - 29:8, 30:9, 35:24 treatment [1] - 33:20 trial [17] - 6:25, 7:5, 7:15, 8:3, 8:11, 8:17, 8:25, 9:3, 9:20, 14:6, 30:3, 30:15, 31:8, 38:13, 39:10, 41:20, 42:2 tried [2] - 32:14, 32:19 triggers [1] - 29:20 Troy [1] - 32:25 truthfully [1] - 3:23 try [1] - 31:11 two [3] - 17:8, 22:2,

U

U.S [2] - 2:4, 2:7

32:25

u.S.P.O [1] - 1:11 ultimate [1] - 40:12 unable [4] - 32:17, 32:18, 32:20, 32:21 unanimous [2] - 7:19, 15:14 under [18] - 3:20, 4:19, 5:9, 7:3, 12:13, 12:22, 13:5, 15:10, 15:24, 18:11, 21:3, 24:21, 34:21, 38:2, 41:6, 41:12, 41:14, 42:14 understandings [1] -27:19 UNITED [2] - 1:2, 1:4 United [10] - 2:3, 7:3, 10:24, 11:22, 12:23, 13:17, 17:10, 19:18, 20:14, 26:9 unknown [1] - 37:8 unquote [1] - 37:17

untreated [2] - 36:4,

36:23 untruthfully [1] -27:11 up [5] - 17:23, 18:6, 18:15, 26:18, 42:15 **US** [1] - 9:18 usual [1] - 37:10

V

valid [1] - 16:11 verdict [1] - 30:15 verified [1] - 21:23 victim [1] - 15:24 violation [7] - 10:24, 11:22, 12:23, 13:16, 15:11, 18:2, 18:9 violations [1] - 17:11 voluntarily [3] - 22:15, 22:19, 39:12 vs [1] - 1:7

8:6, 8:12, 8:13, 31:20 words [3] - 14:17, 16:12, 19:3 worse [2] - 37:16, 37:20

Υ

yard [2] - 32:7, 37:22 year [4] - 18:13, 18:20, 29:20, 30:16 years [18] - 12:22, 13:5, 15:22, 15:24, 17:19, 17:21, 17:23, 18:5, 18:6, 18:11, 18:13, 18:14, 19:6, 19:7, 19:17, 19:18, 38:2, 38:3 yourself [1] - 9:11

W

waive [2] - 9:10, 38:13 Waiver [1] - 24:25 waiver [2] - 25:2, 42:2 waiving [1] - 8:25 Ward [1] - 35:23 Warnings [3] - 21:24, 22:7, 37:2 warrant [2] - 34:11, 34:13 water [1] - 32:20 Wednesday [2] - 1:13, 40:15 Western [2] - 2:12,

41:20 white [2] - 34:19, 35:5 win [1] - 30:4 wish [2] - 9:23, 38:12 withdraw [1] - 27:2 WITHOUT [1] - 1:24 WITNESS [61] - 3:24, 4:3, 4:7, 4:11, 4:21, 4:25, 5:4, 5:8, 5:12, 5:16, 5:19, 5:22, 6:2, 6:15, 6:18, 6:21, 7:7, 7:13, 7:20, 7:25, 8:9, 8:15, 8:22, 9:7, 9:15, 9:21, 9:25, 10:5, 10:9, 11:7, 12:11, 13:22, 14:2, 14:23, 16:2, 16:14, 16:17, 17:5, 19:11, 19:15, 20:11, 20:16, 20:23, 21:8, 21:13, 22:23, 25:10, 25:15, 26:11, 26:20, 27:3, 27:7, 27:15, 27:25, 28:5, 28:9, 28:18, 30:20, 38:9, 38:15, 39:5

Ζ

Ziploc [1] - 34:21

PITTSBURGH REPORTING SERVICE (412) 575-5830

witnesses [5] - 8:3,

6